

Sub
1. (Amended) A method ^{for} treating mastitis in ^{dairy cows suffering from} ~~mammals~~ ^{there to} ~~excluding humans~~ ^{the eff. amt of} ~~that suffer from mastitis~~ ^{mastitis}, which comprises administering phytase to ~~mammals~~.

A1
2. (Amended) The method for treating mastitis in mammals of claim 1, which comprises administering feedstuff containing 50 to 5,000 units phytase per kg of dry feed matter.

3. (Amended) The method for treating mastitis of claim 1, wherein the mammal is a cow and the feedstuff is formula feed for dairy cows.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

A2
7. (New) The method for treating mastitis in mammals of claim 2, wherein the feedstuff comprises formula feed.

8. (New) The method for treating mastitis in mammals of claim 2, wherein the feedstuff comprises zinc methionine sulfate.

Sub B1
9. (New) A method for preventing mastitis in female ruminants, which comprises administering feedstuff comprising a therapeutically effective amount of phytase to the ruminants ^{that suffer from mastitis}.

Sul B1 cont
crit A2
10. (New) The method for preventing mastitis in ruminants of claim 9, which comprises administering feedstuff containing 50 to 5,000 units phytase per kg of dry feed matter.

11. (New) The method for preventing mastitis in ruminants of claim 9, wherein the ruminant is a cow and the feedstuff is formula feed for dairy cows.

Sul B2
12. (New) The methods for preventing mastitis in ruminants of claim 10, wherein the feedstuff comprises formula feed.

13. (New) The method for preventing mastitis in ruminants of claim 10, wherein the feedstuff comprises zinc methionine sulfate.

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 have been amended in order to recite the present invention with the specificity required by statute. Additionally, new Claims 7-13 are presented in order to more specifically recite various preferred embodiments of the present invention. The subject matter of the amendment may be found, *inter alia*, in original claims 5 and 6. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner points out there is no antecedent basis for "dry feed matter." In response, claim 2 has been amended to address the concern noted by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Edwards, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,316,770), and claim 4 is rejected as anticipated by WO